



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

September 17, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W T Fujioka", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Special Sessions Update

On September 14, 2007, Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines announced the formation of two Republican working groups on health care reform and water storage to address proposals for introduction in the upcoming special sessions of the Legislature. According to Assembly Member Villines, the Assembly Republican working groups will be considering various reform ideas on health care and water storage and plan to meet with key stakeholders and interested parties.

The following were appointed by Assembly Member Villines to serve as working group members:

#### Assembly Republican Working Group on Health Care

Greg Aghazarian (Stockton), John J. Benoit (Palm Desert), Sam Blakeslee (San Luis Obispo), Bill Emmerson (Redlands), Ted Gaines (Roseville), Martin Garrick (Carlsbad), Bob Huff (Diamond Bar), Alan Nakanishi (Lodi), Roger Niello (Fair Oaks), Audra Strickland (Westlake Village), and Cameron Smyth (Santa Clarita).

Assembly Republican Working Group on Water

Greg Aghazarian (Stockton), Joel Anderson (El Cajon), Tom Berryhill (Modesto), Jean Fuller (Bakersfield), Ted Gaines (Roseville), Guy Houston (San Ramon), Bob Huff (Diamond Bar), Kevin Jeffries (Lake Elsinore), Rick Keene (Chico), Doug LaMalfa (Richvale), Bill Maze (Visalia), Roger Niello (Fair Oaks), and Todd Spitzer (Orange).

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**AB 1331 (Evans)**, as amended on September 7, 2007, would require counties to screen each foster youth between the age of 16 years and 6 months and 17 years and 6 months for eligibility to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and to submit SSI applications on behalf of those foster youth determined to be potentially eligible to the Social Security Administration.

Foster youth transitioning to adulthood face significant challenges. Those youth with serious physical or mental disabilities are at a greater risk for unemployment, homelessness, and reliance on low-paying General Relief cash assistance. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) notes that AB 1331 would ensure that every foster youth is screened as a potential candidate for SSI eligibility prior to emancipating from foster care. Currently, DCFS does not screen all foster youth for SSI eligibility by virtue of their age. Although the screening process required by AB 1331 would increase the workload for DCFS staff, to the extent that SSI benefits are approved, AB 1331 would provide an economic safety net for foster youth with serious disabilities to help them transition from foster care to independent living. For this reason, we recommend that the County support AB 1331. Consistent with existing Board policy to support legislation to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve outcomes for youth aging out of foster care, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1331.**

AB 1331 is co-sponsored by the Alliance for Children's Rights, the County Welfare Directors Association, John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, Public Interest Law Project and supported by the California State Association of Counties, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the California Mental Health Directors Association and the California Alliance for Children and Family Services. There is no opposition.

AB 1331 passed the Senate on September 10, 2007 by a vote of 29 to 11. The bill passed the Assembly on September 12, 2007 by a vote of 76 to 0, and now proceeds to the Governor.

Each Supervisor  
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We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK  
MAL:IGA:lm

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants